

REMARKS

The present amendment is submitted in response to the Office Action dated November 20, 2002, which set a three-month period for response, making this amendment due by February 20, 2003.

Claims 1 through 8 are pending in this application.

In the Office Action, the specification was objected to for various informalities. Claims 1-8 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 3,866,071 to Hallerback. Claim 1 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 4,719,382 to Listing. Claims 1-8 stand further rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 4,698,539 to Workman.

Looking first to the objections to the specification, the disclosure has been amended to add appropriate headings, to delete references to the claims, and to rewrite the abstract of the disclosure.

Regarding the substantive rejections of the claims, the Applicants respectfully disagree that the cited references anticipate the present invention as defined in claims 1-8. Specifically, none of the references disclose or suggest a sleeve and a stator together that form a bayonet mount. The Hallerback, Listing, and Workman references each only disclose a stator and a sleeve, in which the sleeve rests at least in part on the stator. However, Hallerback and Listing are completely silent as to how the stator and sleeve are actually attached to one

another. Workman shows that the stator is attached to the sleeve by means of bolts 16 (see Figures 3 and 4).


In contrast, claim 1 of the present invention defines specifically that the sleeve 5 and the stator 1 together form a bayonet mount 30. Because none of the cited references shows or discloses this feature, none of the references can be seen as anticipatory of the present invention.

For the reasons set forth above, the Applicants respectfully submit that claims 1-8 are patentable over the cited art. The Applicants further request withdrawal of the rejections under 35 U.S.C. 102 and reconsideration of the application as herein amended.

In light of the foregoing arguments in support of patentability, the Applicants respectfully submit that this application stands in condition for allowance. Action to this end is courteously solicited.

Should the Examiner have any further comments or suggestions, the undersigned would very much welcome a telephone call in order to discuss appropriate claim language that will place the application into condition for allowance.

Respectfully submitted,


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Attachment A: Abstract of the Disclosure as Amended

Abstract of the Disclosure

A stator (1) and sleeve (5) are secured to one another by means of nonpositive engagement in the form of a bayonet mount (30). The apparatus is employed in particular in electric motors.